IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A spark plug comprising:

an insulator;

a marking layer formed on a surface of the insulator; and

a glaze layer covering the marking layer so that the marking layer can be seen through the glaze layer,

wherein the glaze layer comprises 5 mol% or less of a Pb component in terms of PbO, and the tint of the marking layer seen through the glaze layer is 3 or less in brightness as specified by 1993 JIS: Z8721 as well as 3 or less in chroma as specified by 1993 JIS: Z8721, or 4 or less in brightness as specified by 1993 JIS: Z8721 as well as 2 or less in chroma as specified by 1993 JIS: Z8721.

Claim 2 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 1, wherein the glaze layer further comprises a Zn component.

Claim 3 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 2, wherein the glaze layer comprises 1 to 25 mol% of the Zn component in terms of ZnO.

Claim 4 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 1, wherein the marking layer further comprises at least one of Fe, Cr, Co and Mn as metal component(s).

Claim 5 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 4, wherein the marking layer comprises at least one of Fe and Mn, and at least one of Cr and Co as metal components.

Claim 6 (Original): The spark plug as set froth in claim 5, wherein the marking layer comprises Fe and Cr as metal components.

Claim 7 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 6, wherein the marking layer comprises 30 to 60 mass% of the Fe component in terms of Fe_2O_3, and 10 to 40 mass% of the Cr component in terms of Cr_2O_3.

Claim 8 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 7, wherein the marking layer comprises 10 to 25 mass% of the Cr component in terms of Cr_2O_3.

Claim 9 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 4, wherein the marking layer comprises 10 to 40 mass% of a Co component in terms of CoO.

Claim 10 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 4, wherein the marking layer further comprises 0.5 to 15 mass% of a Ni component in terms of Ni_2O_3.

Claim 11 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 4, wherein the marking layer comprises 0.5 to 15 mass% in total of at least one of an Al component and a Ba component, the Al component being in terms of Al_2O_3 and the Ba component being in terms of BaO.

Claim 12 (Original): A spark plug having:

an insulator;

a marking layer formed on a surface of the insulator; and

a glaze layer covering the marking layer so that the marking layer can be seen through the glaze layer,

wherein the glaze layer comprises 5 mol% or less of a Pb component in terms of PbO and 1 to 25 mol% of a Zn component in terms ZnO, and the marking layer comprises 30 to 60 mass% of an Fe component in terms of Fe_2O_3, and 10 to 40 mass% of a Cr component in terms of Cr_2O_3.

Claim 13 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 12, wherein the marking layer comprises 10 to 25 mass% of the Cr component in terms of Cr_2O_3.

Claim 14 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 12, wherein the marking layer comprises 10 to 40 mass% of a Co component in terms of CoO.

Claim 15 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 12, wherein the marking layer further comprises 0.5 to 15 mass% of a Ni component in terms of Ni_2O_3.

Claim 16 (Original): The spark plug as set forth in claim 12, wherein the marking layer comprises 0.5 to 15 mass% in total of at least one of an Al component and a Ba component, the Al component being in terms of Al_2O_3 and the Ba component being in terms of BaO.

Claim 17 (New): A spark plug comprising:

an insulator;

a marking layer formed on a surface of the insulator; and

a glaze layer covering the marking layer so that the marking layer can be seen through the glaze layer,

wherein the glaze layer comprises 5 mol% or less of a Pb component in terms of PbO, and the tint of the marking layer seen through the glaze layer is 3 or less in brightness as specified by 1993 JIS: Z8721 as well as 3 or less in chroma as specified by 1993 JIS: Z8721, or 4 or less in brightness as specified by 1993 JIS: Z8721 as well as 2 or less in chroma as specified by 1993 JIS: Z8721, and

wherein the marking layer comprises at least one of Fe and Mn, and at least one of Cr and Co as metal components.